

2. (TWICE AMENDED) The image generating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises:

storage means for storing a plurality of said unit image groups,

said storage means storing a plurality of kinds of unit image groups having mutually different starting reference images and ending reference images with respect to a same communication information, and

said image generating means reading a leading unit image group and a trailing image group which has a starting reference image approximately matching an ending reference image of the leading unit image group from said storage means and connecting the leading and trailing unit image groups.

5.
3. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to generate a sequential character image, comprising:

image generating means for causing the computer to generate a sequential character image by connecting a plurality of unit image groups which are respectively defined in advance and guaranteed to indicate one communication information to a viewer; and

display means for causing the computer to display said sequential character image.

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4. (TWICE AMENDED) An image generating apparatus which generates a motion picture, comprising:

a database storing unit component images respectively representing a series of actions, each of said unit component images being defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer and being made up of a plurality of images including a starting image and an ending image of an action of a character;

a data retrieving part selectively searching and reading the unit component images stored in said database; and

a connecting part connecting an end image of a first unit component image read by said data retrieving part and a starting image of a second unit component image read by said data retrieving part.

10.
5. (TWICE AMENDED) An image generating apparatus for generating a motion picture, comprising:

a database storing unit image groups respectively representing an action of a character and made up of a plurality of images, in correspondence with attribute information defining each action, each of said unit image groups being defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer;

a retrieving part reading a unit image group corresponding to input attribute information from said database, based on the input attribute information; and

editing means for editing the unit image group read by said retrieving part.

12.
6. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to generate a motion picture, comprising:

a data retrieving part causing the computer to selectively search and read unit component images stored in a database which stores unit component images respectively representing a series of actions, each of said unit component images being defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer and being made up of a plurality of images including a starting image and an ending image of an action of a character; and

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a connecting part causing the computer to connect an end image of a first unit component image which is caused to read by said data retrieving part and a starting image of a second unit component image which is caused to read by said data retrieving part.

14.
7. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for causing a computer to generate a motion picture, comprising:

a retrieving part causing the computer to read a unit image group corresponding to input attribute information from a database, based on the input attribute information, said database storing unit image groups respectively representing an action of a character and made up of a plurality of images, in correspondence with attribute information defining each action, each of said unit image groups being defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer; and

editing means for causing the computer to edit the unit image group caused to read by said retrieving part.

16.

(TWICE AMENDED) An image generating apparatus comprising:

image generating means for generating a sequential character image by connecting a plurality of unit image groups which are respectively defined and guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer;

display means for displaying the sequential character image; and

control means for controlling a device depending on a motion of the sequential character image.

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(ONCE AMENDED) An image generating method to generate a motion picture, comprising:

defining communication information, which guarantees in advance to indicate the communication information to a viewer;

generating a sequential character image by connecting a plurality of unit image groups which, respectively, indicate the communication information to a viewer; and

displaying said sequential character image.

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(ONCE AMENDED) The image generating method as claimed in claim 15, which further comprises:

storing a plurality of said unit image groups,

storing a plurality of kinds of unit image groups having mutually different starting reference images and ending reference images with respect to a same communication information, and

reading a leading unit image group and a trailing image group which has a starting reference image approximately matching an ending reference image of the leading unit image group from said storage means and connecting the leading and trailing unit image groups.

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(ONCE AMENDED) An image generating apparatus comprising:

an image generator generating a sequential character image by connecting a plurality of unit image groups which, respectively, represent an action and the plurality of unit image groups are guaranteed in advance to indicate one communication information to a viewer; and
a display displaying said sequential character image.

~~3~~18. (NEW) The image generating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of said unit image groups are made up of humanoid images.

~~6~~19. (NEW) The storage medium as claimed in claim ~~3~~5, wherein the plurality of said unit image groups are made up of humanoid images.

20. (NEW) The image generating apparatus as claimed in claim ~~9~~18, further comprising:

a cooperation unit to adjust a reproducing time of image data when the reproducing time of the image data and a reproducing time of audio data do not match, such that the adjusted reproducing time of image data matches the reproducing time of audio data.

~~27~~21. (NEW) The image generating method as claimed in claim ~~18~~25, further comprising:
adjusting a reproducing time of image data when the reproducing time of the image data and a reproducing time of audio data do not match, such that the adjusted reproducing time of image data matches the reproducing time of audio data.

24 Cont.
~~4~~22. (NEW) The image generating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of unit image groups has a respective starting image substantially identical to a respective trailing image.

~~7~~23. (NEW) The computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim ~~3~~5, wherein at least one of the plurality of unit image groups has a respective starting image substantially identical to a respective trailing image.

~~9~~24. (NEW) The image generating apparatus as claimed in claim ~~4~~8, wherein at least one of the plurality of unit image groups has a respective starting image substantially identical to a respective trailing image.

~~11~~25. (NEW) The image generating apparatus as claimed in claim ~~5~~10, wherein at least one of the plurality of unit image groups has a respective starting image substantially identical to a respective trailing image.